

Application No.: 10/733211

Case No.: 59455US002

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method of making a crosslinked polymer comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a highly fluorinated fluoropolymer comprising: a backbone derived in part from tetrafluoroethylene monomer, first pendent groups which include a group according to the formula $-\text{SO}_2\text{X}$, where X is F, Cl, Br, OH or $-\text{O}^-\text{M}^+$, where M^+ is a monovalent cation, and second pendent groups which include Br; and
 - b) exposing said fluoropolymer to ultraviolet radiation so as to result in the formation of crosslinks.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said method additionally comprises, prior to said step b), the step of:
 - c) forming said fluoropolymer into a membrane.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said membrane has a thickness of 90 microns or less.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said highly fluorinated fluoropolymer is perfluorinated.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said pendent groups are according to the formula $-\text{R}^1-\text{SO}_2\text{X}$, where R^1 is a branched or unbranched perfluoroalkyl or perfluoroether group comprising 1-15 carbon atoms and 0-4 oxygen atoms, and where X is F, Cl, Br, OH or $-\text{O}^-\text{M}^+$, where M^+ is a monovalent cation.

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6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said pendent groups are groups according to the formula $-\text{O}-(\text{CF}_2)_4-\text{SO}_2\text{X}$, where X is F, Cl, Br, OH or $-\text{O}^-\text{M}^+$, where M^+ is a monovalent cation.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said pendent groups are groups according to the formula $-\text{O}-(\text{CF}_2)_4-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$.

8.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said pendent groups are according to the formula $-\text{R}^1-\text{SO}_2\text{X}$, where R^1 is a branched or unbranched perfluoroalkyl or perfluoroether group comprising 1-15 carbon atoms and 0-4 oxygen atoms, and where X is F, Cl, Br, OH or $-\text{O}^-\text{M}^+$, where M^+ is a monovalent cation.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said pendent groups are groups according to the formula $-\text{O}-(\text{CF}_2)_4-\text{SO}_2\text{X}$, where X is F, Cl, Br, OH or $-\text{O}^-\text{M}^+$, where M^+ is a monovalent cation.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said pendent groups are groups according to the formula $-\text{O}-(\text{CF}_2)_4-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$.

13.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method according to claim 3 wherein said pendent groups are according to the formula $-\text{R}^1-\text{SO}_2\text{X}$, where R^1 is a branched or unbranched perfluoroalkyl or perfluoroether group comprising 1-15 carbon atoms and 0-4 oxygen atoms, and where X is F, Cl, Br, OH or $-\text{O}^-\text{M}^+$, where M^+ is a monovalent cation.

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16. (Original) The method according to claim 3 wherein said pendent groups are groups according to the formula $-O-(CF_2)_4-SO_2X$, where X is F, Cl, Br, OH or $-O-M^+$, where M^+ is a monovalent cation.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 3 wherein said pendent groups are groups according to the formula $-O-(CF_2)_4-SO_3H$.

18.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein step c) comprises imbining said fluoropolymer into a porous supporting matrix.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20 wherein said porous supporting matrix is a porous polytetrafluoroethylene web.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said method additionally comprises, prior to said step b), the step of:

d) contacting said polymer with a crosslinking agent.

23.-44. (Canceled)